



insideNewberry

To honor the past...inform the present...envision the future, *insideNewberry* is published quarterly by Newberry Community Partnership (NCP) as a service to the neighborhood to promote community pride and facilitate communication between residents, schools, civic organizations and businesses. NCP is a non-profit community-based organization established in 2006. Please support our sponsors who made this issue possible!

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insideNewberry

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All submissions subject to editing.



Newberry Independent Club Helps Orphans in Ukraine

A conversation took place between myself and Mike Shelb, both board members at what's known as the Polish Club. The proper name is the Newberry Independent Club, and we were looking for a way to help the Polish people who were helping the Ukrainian refugees caused by the Russian invasion.



Bob Woodley and Reverend Mykola Ivanov, Priest at the Transfiguration of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church in Shamokin.

That morning I saw a news story about a man in Florida who was able to help via his local Ukrainian church. I recalled there being a Ukrainian church in Shamokin, so I looked up the number and called that Saturday afternoon. A man answered the phone, and I explained that I was calling on behalf of a philanthropic organization, and we were looking for a way to help. As it turns out, the man who answered the phone was Reverend Mykola Ivanov, a native of Lviv, Ukraine, and the Priest at the Transfiguration of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church in Shamokin. He told me he and another person were planning a trip to Ukraine later that month (May), and they would be focused on helping Ukrainian children who had been orphaned by the Russian invasion. He went on to tell me that he and the other person, who was former Northumberland County Commissioner Vinnie Clausi, had raised one-hundred thirty-five thousand dollars for the mission. Their plan was to travel to a Polish city on the border with Ukraine, search for orphanages on both sides of the border that needed help due to the influx of refugees, and go buy the supplies and deliver them to where the help was needed. When the board of directors at the Polish Club were presented with this opportunity to provide almost first-hand assistance to the cause, the board unanimously voted to donate five-thousand dollars to the effort, bringing the total raised to one-hundred forty-thousand dollars. I had the distinct honor of delivering the check to Reverend Ivanov at his church in Shamokin, a place I know well, having grown up there. When I got there, he led me into the vestibule, and then to near the altar to take photographs. He was younger than I expected. He took

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Newberry Independent Club Helps Orphans in Ukraine Continued from page 1

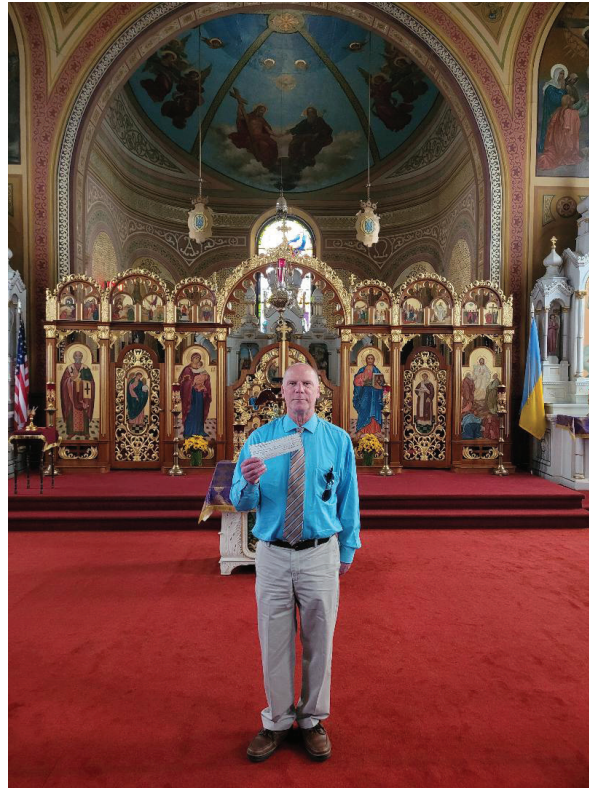
the time to speak with me about the war in Ukraine and the mission he and Vinnie were about to tackle.

The actual departure date was kept secret. Before leaving, all of the money would be exchanged for Polish currency. Two men were flying out of the United States to Poland carrying one-hundred forty-thousand dollars worth of Polish zloty, which is what they call their dollars. Depending upon the exchange rate, that could be as much as half-a-million zloty. They had to get permission from each government to fly with that much cash. As Vinnie Clausi told me when they got back, the goal was to have as much direct contact with the people they were there to help as possible. They could have easily given the money to a well-known charitable agency, but these two cut out the middle man by going directly to where the help was needed with a wad of cash. And that's exactly what they did.

Their mission lasted six days. Some friends of Reverend Ivanov arranged initial transportation, otherwise, the logistics of the mission were day by day, minute by minute. Vinnie would cross over into Ukraine, find where the help was needed most and report back to Mykola, who stayed on the Polish side of the border and made the purchases and arranged for drivers and trucks to take the supplies into Ukraine. Finding drivers and trucks was a challenge. Some drivers wouldn't cross the border, but others would. A driver with an empty truck who has a few days to wait until his employer finds him something more to haul was a prime target. Finding out what was needed and buying what was needed were the easiest part of the mission.

Getting it there was often a challenge. The needs were often similar regardless of the location. Food is the most needed item. Shoes were also in high

Continued on page 3



Bob Woodley presents check at the Transfiguration of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church in Shamokin.



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SETBACK TOURNAMENTFirst Thursday of the Month
• Pre-registration

BINGOMondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays 12:30 PM

HEALTHY STEPS IN MOTION EXERCISE
FOR MATURE ADULTS Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:30 am

Bible Study w/Local ClergyWednesdays 12:15 PM

BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC
Performed by Penn College Student Nurses
2nd Wednesday of the Month – call for details.

TAI CHI FOR ARTHRITIS
Level 1..... 5 PM Tuesdays & 10:30 AM Thursdays

KNITTING GROUP Tuesdays 11 AM

ZUMBA GOLD.....Wednesdays 4:30 to 5:30 PM

Newberry Independent Club Helps Orphans in Ukraine

Continued from page 2

demand. Vinnie and Mykola bought and delivered food to more than a dozen orphanages, bought quality shoes for dozens of children who needed them. Sleep for Vinnie and Mykola was a rare and welcome respite during the journey. The Reverend tells me they slept about four hours a night.

Refugees had different needs than the orphans. As Reverend Ivanov explained to me after they got back, the refugees weren't interested in stopping just inside the Polish border. Many of them wanted to keep going, further into Poland or even on to Germany and other European countries. Their needs were simple: Fuel for the car and food to eat at along the way. Other than food and shoes, the orphanages had different needs. What the children need can be different from what the adults need. The people running the orphanages and caring for the children were often doing so without adequate tools. Things you might not think of, like refrigeration, can make a big difference in the abilities of caretakers. Mykola and Vinnie bought refrigerators and microwaves and even televisions for orphanages that didn't have them.

The goal was to go to the Polish border with Ukraine and help the people who needed help the most by directly assessing the immediate situation, and providing help where help was needed. With one-hundred forty-thousand dollars, five-thousand of which came from the Polish Club as the result of a conversation one Saturday afternoon, two men, one from Shamokin, and one from Lviv, made a difference in the lives of many people living in the shadow of war.

Another trip is in the works. If you'd like to donate to the fund, contact the Transfiguration of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church in Shamokin
~ Bob Woodley



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A Word From the WECCC

There is just so much going on here at the center that we would like to share with you. First we have completed the first year of our FOCUSED (Feeding Our Children United Serving Each with Dignity). During the 2021/2022 school year we packed just over 40,000 bags that were distributed to the children of the WASD. This is incredible and far more than had been done in the past. We want to say thank you to the team(s) of dedicated volunteers who made this possible.

A "Token Economy" learning/educational center and arcade called "The Cencade". The hours are Monday-Friday 10:00-5:00, Saturday 12:00-5:00 and Sunday 11:00-4:00. This program is open to all youth ages 11-15. More information can be found on our Facebook page.

The S&K Café statistics from the Food Bank show that we processed nearly 400% more food than we did the previous year! Again, all of this is due to the dedicated help of our incredible volunteers who we cannot thank enough.

There is a piece of scripture found in the Gospel of Mark that tells of Jesus standing separating the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. In it Jesus makes the determination by the way they treated him or at least the ones He loves. " Then the King will say to

those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared



for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

It is this principle that drives us to constantly seek ways that we may be able to serve our community. One of the greatest challenges we face is getting the word out about the WECCC. If you are ever in the area we would love to have you visit and maybe take a tour. It is through the efforts of the incredible team of volunteers, patrons and supporting organizations. For all you have done and all that I am sure you are going to do I say thank you on behalf of all involved with the WECCC.

~ Submitted by Calvin Phillips, Executive Director

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WILLIAMSPORT, PA

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2022

AUGUST 2, 2022 4PM-6PM

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WILLIAMSPORT, PA

TOGETHER, WE ARE MAKING COMMUNITIES
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National Night Out Event

Better Tomorrows and Seniors from Williamsport Elderly are hosting a National Night Out event. Local firefighters and police will be on site at the WAMS parking lot to interact with families in our community.

The heart of this event is Community Unity and this event is still in the works. We are looking for sponsors and partners to assist with making this event a success for our community. A banner will be posted with all of the partners and sponsors of this event.

The event is scheduled for Tuesday, August 2nd from 4PM-6PM. Help is needed with:

1. Food - must hold a food permit (for maybe 100 people)
2. Donations and volunteers for back to school supplies giveaways (for kids grades K-12) - backpacks, pencils, papers, project boards, markers, crayons...etc
3. Partners to run game booths and offer prizes.
4. Any suggestions or churches that would like to sponsor an activity table

If you'd like to get involved, email: karen.mello@bettertomorrows.org, contact Karen at work (570-322-2265) or cell (570-360-3100).

Thanks to any of you in our community that are willing to partner with Better Tomorrows for this event.

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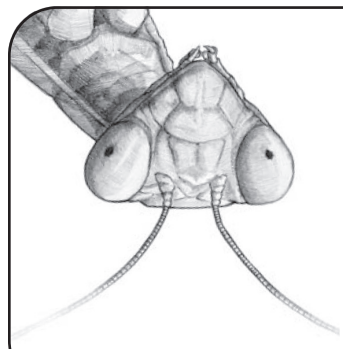
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The support group welcomes new members.
For additional information, call the
WECCC office at the number listed above.*

BOY SCOUT TROOP 14 570-326 5569
Every Monday • 7:00 to 8:30 pm
St. John's-Newberry UMC • 2101 Newberry St.
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CUB SCOUT PACK 14..... 570-326-5569
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to be placed on agenda.*

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NOTE: These are active groups that welcome new
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contact the Editor, **insideNewberry**, 913 Diamond Street,
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Newberry Clean-up a Success

The Newberry Community Partnership held its semi-annual neighborhood clean-up in April. The Spring Clean-up is in conjunction with annual Earth Day celebrations. According to Julia Huslander, one of the organizers, about fifty people volunteered on a Saturday morning to comb the streets of Newberry and pick up trash and recyclables. The community effort was able to gather about 185 pounds of trash and about 65 pounds of recyclables during the three-hour event. Afterward, volunteers were invited to enjoy pizza and drinks as a small reward for their contribution. ~ Bob Woodley



Newberry Community Partnership Spring Clean Up



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Volunteers Collected:
185 pounds of trash and
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UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY 2022

MONDAY, JULY 4 – Independence Day
(Federal Holiday - Banks Closed)

AUGUST 2022

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2 – National Night Out,
4 PM to 6 PM (See Page 5)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7 – Purple Heart Day

SEPTEMBER 2022

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 – Labor Day
(Federal Holiday - Banks Closed)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 - Patriot Day

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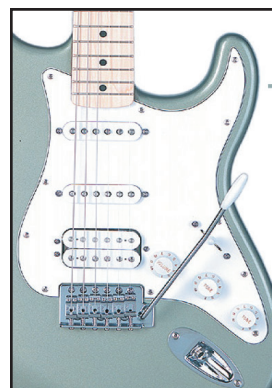
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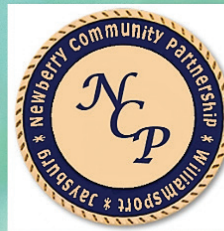
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